

## CLAIMS

1. A method of identifying a compound useful for prevention and treatment of atherosclerosis which comprises assaying the compound for its ability to modulate the binding affinity of CEL to  
5 a receptor.
2. A method of identifying a compound useful for reducing the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis which comprises assaying the compound for its ability to modulate the binding affinity of CEL to a receptor.  
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3. A method for reducing the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis comprising the administration of an effective amount of a modulator of the binding affinity of CEL to a receptor.
- 15 4. A method for the provision of an agent for the reduction of the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis, which method comprises using one or more putative modulator of the binding affinity of CEL to a receptor as test compounds in one or more procedure to measure the ability of the test compound to reduce the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins, and selecting an active compound for use as an agent able to reduce the retention of  
20 atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis.
5. Use of a modulator of the binding affinity of CEL to a receptor as an agent able to reduce the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis and thereby preventing or treating atherosclerosis.  
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6. A method of preventing or treating atherosclerosis which method comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of an agent able to reduce the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins and thereby preventing or treating atherosclerosis.
- 30 7. A method according to claim 6 where the agent has been identified using the methods of claim 1 or 2.
8. Use of an agent able to reduce the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins by modulating the binding affinity of CEL to a receptor in preparation of a medicament for the prevention or  
35 treatment of atherosclerosis.
9. A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition which comprises:
  - iii) identifying an agent as useful for reducing the retention of atherogenic lipoproteins in atherogenesis according to claim 1 or 2; and
  - 40 iv) mixing the agent or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.